CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 7 JANUARY 1992 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, PERU AND VENEZUELA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE CARTAGENA DECLARATION ON RENUNCIATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, SIGNED AT CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, COLOMBIA, ON 4 DECEMBER 1991 BY THE FIVE HEADS OF STATE OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ANDEAN GROUP

We have the honour to transmit to you the text of the Cartagena Declaration on Renunciation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, which was signed in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 4 December 1991 by the five heads of State of the member countries of the Andean Group - Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

We should be very grateful if, in accordance with established practice, you would arrange for this text to be published as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to all delegations, both those of member States and those with observer status.

(Signed) Jorge Soruco
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Bolivia to the international
organizations in Geneva

(Signed) Eduardo Mestre Sarmiento
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Colombia to the
international organizations
in Geneva

(Signed) Eduardo Santos
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ecuador
to the international organizations in Geneva

(Signed) Oswaldo de Rivero
Ambassador
Head of the delegation
of Peru to the Conference
on Disarmament

(Signed) Horacio Arteaga
Ambassador
Head of the delegation of
Venezuela to the Conference
on Disarmament

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CARTAGENA DECLARATION ON RENUNCIATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

The Presidents of the member countries of the Andean Group, meeting in the city of Cartagena de Indias,

Considering that the fundamental changes in international relations resulting from East-West détente and the end of the cold war are of major historical significance and offer new possibilities for strengthening international peace and security,

Aware that in the current global process of détente, international security and cooperation, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, must be approached in an all-round manner and linked to the strengthening of democracy, the fostering of a climate of peace between neighbours, the full realization of human rights and the promotion of the economic and social welfare of our peoples,

Determined to contribute to the global process of international détente that is currently under way,

Resolved to prevent the introduction of weapons of mass destruction in Latin American and the Caribbean, which would lead to a ruinous arms race and thereby limit the allocation and transfer of greater financial resources for the socio-economic development of the region,

Standing ready to strengthen the role of the 1967 Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and its protocols, and to extend that ban to all categories of weapons of mass destruction, in order to transform this region into a zone free of such weapons,

Reaffirming their support for the Acapulco Commitment to Peace, Development and Democracy adopted at the first summit meeting of heads of State of the Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action, in which it is stated that the approach to security in our region must cover both the aspects of peace and stability and those relating to political, economic and financial vulnerability,

Endorsing the Guadalajara Declaration, which calls for the promotion of conventional disarmament and the banning of weapons of mass destruction and seeks to ensure that measures to control and reduce such weapons do not hinder legitimate access to advanced technologies for peaceful purposes that are essential for the socio-economic development of the peoples of the region,

Expressing their support for the subregional and multilateral undertakings in favour of disarmament, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the 1974 Declaration of Ayacucho, the Andean Agreement on Peace, Security and Cooperation and the Foz do Iguaçú declaration on Argentine-Brazilian common nuclear policy, as well as the resolutions approved by the twenty-first General Assembly of OAS on cooperation for the security of the western hemisphere and limitation of the

proliferation of instruments of war and weapons of mass destruction, the declaration on the exclusively peaceful uses of nuclear energy signed by the Presidents of Argentina and Brazil, and the Mendoza Accord,

Have agreed on the following Declaration:

1. They welcome the initiative of the Government of Peru concerning the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction in Latin America and the Caribbean as the beginning of a gradual process to strengthen security and mutual trust in the region;

2. They proclaim the commitment of their Governments to renounce the possession, production, development, use, testing and transfer of all weapons of mass destruction, whether nuclear, bacteriological (biological), toxin or chemical weapons, and to refrain from storing, acquiring or holding such categories of weapons, in any circumstances;

3. They reaffirm the inalienable right of their peoples to benefit, through international cooperation, from scientific and technological developments for exclusively peaceful uses in the field of nuclear energy, biology and chemical industry, and also to have access to space technologies;

4. They call on the countries that possess technology for the production of weapons of mass destruction to strengthen in an effective manner systems to monitor the transfer of such technologies;

5. They request the countries possessing weapons of mass destruction to undertake not to use such weapons and not to threaten their use against the parties to the present Declaration;

6. They announce their intention to become original signatories of the convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production, use and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction, and to that end express their support for the negotiations being conducted in the Conference on Disarmament for the adoption of a chemical weapons convention in 1992;

7. They express support for the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, as well as the negotiations aimed at strengthening its verification machinery;

8. They declare their determination to promote the transformation of Latin America and the Caribbean into the first inhabited area of the planet which is free of weapons of mass destruction;

9. They declare that responsibility for proscribing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and halting the arms race falls on the entire international community, but particularly on the militarily important States and especially those which possess nuclear weapons;

10. They consider that it is urgently necessary to halt nuclear tests, in all environments, as the best means of putting an end to the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and the development of new types of such weapons;

11. They appeal to the other Governments of the region to become parties to the present declaration, and appeal to the entire international community, in general, to support the objectives and purposes set out in it and refrain from any action which may undermine the spirit of the present Declaration.

Cartagena de Indias, 4 December 1991

(Signed) Jaime Paz Zamora
President of Bolivia

(Signed) Cesar Gaviria Trujillo
President of Colombia

(Signed) Rodrigo Borja
President of Ecuador

(Signed) Alberto Fujimori
President of Peru

(Signed) Carlos Andrés Pérez
President of Venezuela